

On page 38, please amend the paragraph starting on line 18 and ending on line 24 as follows:

A² Further, for additional details regarding the formation of ceramic oxide pre-forms, and metal matrix composite article made from ceramic oxide pre-forms see, for example, provisional applications having U.S. Serial Nos. 60/236,091 and 60/236,110, filed September 28, 2000, and applications having U.S. Serial Nos. 09/967,401 and 09/967,562, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

A version marked up to show changes made to the specification relative to the previous version of the specification is attached.

REMARKS

The amendment to page 32 corrects the spelling of "Widnes".

The amendment to page 40 updates the status of two co-pending applications.

Examination and consideration of the application as amended is requested.

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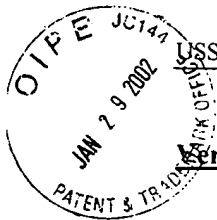
Respectfully submitted,

By


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**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made****In the Specification:**

On page 30, please amend the paragraph starting on line 3 and ending on line 11 as follows:

Suitable discontinuous ceramic oxide fibers (including whiskers) include those made of alumina, including alpha alumina and transitional aluminas (such as delta alumina), aluminosilicate fibers, and aluminoborosilicate fibers, and methods of making and/or sources of such materials, are known in the art. Discontinuous fibers can be made, for example, by cutting or chopping continuous fibers (including the continuous fibers discussed above). Examples of commercially available discontinuous ceramic oxide fibers include those marketed under the trade designation "SAFFIL" from J&J Dyson, Widnes[s], UK, "KAOWOOL" from Thermal Ceramics Inc., Augusta, GA, and "FIBERFRAX" from Unifrax, Niagara Falls, NY.

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